

VZCZCXRO7276

PP RUEHAO RUEHCD RUEHGA RUEHGD RUEHGR RUEHHA RUEHHO RUEHMC RUEHNG
RUEHNL RUEHQU RUEHRD RUEHRG RUEHRS RUEHTM RUEHVC
DE RUEHCV #2062 2961814
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 231814Z OCT 07
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9959
INFO RUEHWH/WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL POSTS PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY

UNCLAS CARACAS 002062

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

HQSOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD
DEPT PASS TO AID/OTI RPORTER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [VE](#)

SUBJECT: VENEZUELA'S NATIONAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL REQUESTS
LOCAL TV STATIONS STOP AIRING ANTI-CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM
ADS

¶1. (U) The Directors of Globovision, Alberto Federico Ravell, and Venezolana de TeleVision (VTV), Romero Anselmi, met with the President of the National Electoral Council (CNE), Tibisay Lucena, October 17 to counter CNE efforts to suspend the transmission of spots critical of the government's proposed constitutional reforms. The CNE asserts these spots are premature. Ravell, argues that they do not endorse a position, but rather serve to educate Venezuelans. The CNE, however, was unconvinced and issued a formal request on October 20 to stop broadcasting the messages. Ciudadania Activa, the NGO that produces these spots, has vowed to continue to air the ads via the internet and to pass them out directly to the public.

¶2. (SBU) Comment. The CNE's partisanship is blatant given the fact that Venezuelans are bombarded daily with government propaganda promoting the Chavez Administration and his constitutional reforms. The government obviously has little interest in fostering genuine debate about the constitutional reforms. End Comment.

DUDDY